

Igor Ferst

STARTUP ENGINEER + DATA SPECIALIST

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Summary

I am a veteran startup engineer specializing in data, with deep experience in fast-paced, large-scale, high-complexity environments. I've architected, built and scaled data platforms and data products at multiple early and growth-stage companies, most notably as the co-founder and CTO of a startup building an analytics platform for vehicle telematics data (Mobikit, acquired by Bridgestone).

Though a data engineer by trade, I have worked in all areas of data: data engineering, data science, analytics and BI, ML and MLOps, and GenAI. I thrive in roles that combine hands-on execution and strategic thinking, and enjoy working closely with stakeholders and data practitioners to maximize their data's business value.

Work Experience

Epidemic Sound

Stockholm, Sweden

SR. DATA ENGINEER

Jan. 2025 - present

First data engineer on an early-stage team building a new product in a data-heavy domain.

- Designed and built a data warehouse (DWH) and ELT data pipeline for large-scale social network data to support product features and mission-critical analytics.
- Design and implement self-serve data interfaces to large-scale, complex data for both internal and external customers.
- Prototyped quality metrics for evaluating the output of a foundational GenAI music model.

DATA SCIENCE TEAM LEAD

June 2024 - Jan. 2025

Founding lead for a new team responsible for cultivating a data product culture within the data science domain.

- Articulated team vision after detailed discovery with data scientists, defined a roadmap, and got buy-in from leadership.
- Designed and implemented a technical toolkit for data product development that enabled traceability of ownership and automated error monitoring.
- Enhanced company's primary customer lifetime value model to support finer-grained cohorting while maintaining accuracy.
- Defined best practices around data product development, LLMs, and MLOps. Provided hands-on training to data scientists.

SR. ANALYTICS ENGINEER

Sept. 2023 - June 2024

Epidemic's analytics engineering team owns our data warehouse and supports Epidemic's analysts and data scientists with tooling, data products, and expertise.

- Designed and implemented a new pipeline code deployment process that significantly increased deployment frequency and reduced DWH downtime.
- Implemented DWH cost monitoring which was critical during renegotiation with GCP; stakeholder called it "a huge win".
- Implemented DWH integration with new CRM tool; stakeholder said "never before in my career has an integration actually been delivered on time with no hiccups".

Bridgestone Mobility Solutions

Stockholm, Sweden

DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING

Feb. 2021 - Aug. 2023

My startup Mobikit (see below) was acquired and its product incorporated into Bridgestone's software portfolio as a data-driven fleet risk management product for insurance carriers called SafetyIQ. Post-acquisition, I integrated Mobikit with Bridgestone's engineering and sales orgs, and continued to lead product development for SafetyIQ.

Mobikit

Columbus (OH), USA

CO-FOUNDER/CTO

Jan. 2019 - Feb. 2021

Technical co-founder of a startup building a data analytics platform for large-scale vehicle telematics data. I oversaw data engineering, product development, and customer implementation.

- Architected and led development of distributed ETL data pipeline to ingest and enrich telematics data from heterogeneous sources (millions of trips per month).
- Led design and development for data-driven features such as risk analytics, outlier detection, accident reconstruction, and more.
- Contributed code across the entire stack, from data pipeline to application backend to UI.
- Grew and managed globally distributed team of developers and data scientists, from interns to seniors (8 people at its highest).
- Raised funding, guided company to product-market fit, and exited successfully.

Root Insurance

SR. SOFTWARE ENGINEER

Columbus (OH), USA

Sept. 2018 - Jan. 2019

Worked at a growth-stage insurtech unicorn on multiple data-intensive projects.

- Prototyped a random forest model to enhance insurance rate accuracy.
- Implemented support for new rating methodologies and executed historical backtests for rating changes.
- Python SME for engineering and actuarial teams.

Enlace Health

LEAD SOFTWARE ENGINEER

Columbus (OH), USA

Sept. 2014 - Feb. 2018

Enlace is a healthtech company building large-scale data analytics tools to support innovative models of healthcare delivery. I joined as an early employee working on the analytics platform, and was then asked to lead a team building a new product.

- Led a cross-functional team building a care management and revenue cycle management product for surgical centers.
- Owned product design and technical architecture, maintained product roadmap, implemented features.
- Designed and implemented a novel graph algorithm in Spark for processing healthcare claims data.

InSample

SOFTWARE ENGINEER

San Francisco (CA), USA

Mar. 2014 - Sept. 2014

First employee at a healthcare analytics startup building a cloud-based tool for statistical de-biasing of clinical experiments.

Together with the CTO, I interviewed prospective customers, and designed and built the product prototype.

Google

SOFTWARE ENGINEER

Mountain View (CA), USA

Feb. 2013 - Mar. 2014

I was part of the conversion tracking team building tools that Google's customers use to understand the effectiveness of their ad spend. I implemented a novel conversion tracking visualization for the AdWords suite of analytics tools and developed enhancements to the Google Analytics Markov-chain-based attribution model.

Palantir Technologies

FORWARD DEPLOYED ENGINEER

Palo Alto (CA), USA

Jan. 2011 - Jan. 2013

I worked on Palantir's data integration and quantitative research platform for capital markets. I was a developer and product owner for the platform's visualization and reporting features, and was embedded with the platform's largest customer (Bridgewater Associates).

Skills

General Data engineering, data modeling, software engineering, analytics, data science/ML, technical leadership

Languages Python, SQL, Javascript, Java

Data Tools dbt, BigQuery, PostgreSQL, Hex, Looker, LLMs, pandas

Infrastructure GCP, AWS, Docker, Airflow, Terraform, Github

Education

Cornell University

Ithaca (NY), USA

M.S. IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

- PhD candidate in Applied Mathematics supported by a US National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship.
- Published original research in algorithms and mathematical optimization: <https://tinyurl.com/ycheu4us>

University of Waterloo

Waterloo (Ontario), Canada

M.MATH. IN COMBINATORICS & OPTIMIZATION

University of Chicago

Chicago (IL), USA

B.S. IN MATHEMATICS WITH HONORS

- Published original research in mathematics as an undergraduate, earning an Erdős number of 2.